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BOOK REVIEWS

A TEXT-BOOK OF PHYSICS AND CHEMISTRY FOR NURSES. By A. R. Bliss, Jr., Ph.G., Ph.Ch., A.M., Phm.D., M.D. Lecturer on Chemistry and Materia Medica, Grady Hospital Training School for Nurses, Atlanta; Professor of Pharmacology, Emory University, School of Medicine; Formerly Professor of Chemistry and Pharmacology, Birmingham Medical College and Graduate School of Medicine, University of Alabama; and A. H. Olive, A.B., A.M., Ph.Ch., Phm.D. Lecturer on Chemistry, Hillman Hospital Training School for Nurses, Birmingham; Professor of Physics and Chemistry, Howard College; Formerly Associate Professor of Chemistry, Birmingham Medical College and Graduate School of Medicine, University of Alabama. J. B. Lippincott and Company, Philadelphia and London. Price, \$1.50.

Considering the number of books on the subject of chemistry, perhaps another cannot be said to be strictly needed, but the subject-matter of this one is presented in a different manner from any at hand, and is the result of years of teaching in schools of nursing. Owing to the limited time allotted to this branch of science during the nurse's course, the authors have been as brief as the subject permits. Nothing necessary to a good general knowledge has, however, been omitted.

THE BACKWARD BABY: A TREATISE ON IDIOCY AND THE ALLIED MENTAL DEFICIENCIES IN INFANCY AND EARLY CHILDHOOD. By Herman B. Sheffield, M.D., Fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine and the American Medical Association; Author of *Modern Diagnosis and Treatment of Diseases of Children*, *Pediatric Memoranda*, and *The Baby's Record and Health*, and Co-Author of *Practical Pediatrics*; formerly Medical Director, Beth David Hospital; Instructor in Diseases of Children, New York Post-Graduate Medical School and Hospital; and Associate Babies' Hospital (O. P. D.); Visiting Physician to the Philanthropin Hospital and the Northwestern Dispensary, etc. Awarded the Alvarenga Prize of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, July 14, 1914. With 22 original illustrations in the text. Rebman Company. New York. Price, \$1.00.

It is necessary to remind oneself frequently, while reading this book, which treats of a subject from which one is inclined to shrink, that it is a prize essay, otherwise the didactic manner in which it is written

would mar what would be a favorable impression. Possibly the author realizes this, as in his preface he states that "Owing to the paucity of literature," he was "obliged to rely chiefly upon his personal observations." He states that attention has formerly been given to children of school age, and he is convinced that knowledge of the child's condition should be obtained and all possible amelioration by treatment be begun much earlier. One is conscious of the genuine sympathy which the writer feels for the kind of patients with which his practice brings him in contact. He finds from personal observation that the generally accepted theories of the causes of lack of mental or physical development are not correct. Those due to heredity are less numerous than is usually supposed, as nature has the tendency to eliminate defects if given any chance. To prolonged or instrumental deliveries may be ascribed at least 30 per cent of ailments. A strong argument in favor of national prohibition is shown by the statistics of prohibition and non-prohibition states. A chapter on prophylaxis is particularly good for the general reader and the entire book could well be read, if not studied, by student and graduate nurses.

MATERIA MEDICA FOR NURSES. By A. S. Blumgarten, M.D., Admitting Physician to the German Hospital; Lecturer to the Training Schools of the German Hospital and the Skin and Cancer Hospital, New York; Joint Author of *Children's Diseases for Nurses*, etc. Second edition, completely revised, with additions and new illustrations. 1916. The Macmillan Company, New York. Price, \$2.50.

The author found that, even in two brief years, the first edition of his book, reviewed in these columns in October, 1914, needed developing. Special attention has been given to the administration of medicine, a branch which he thinks most necessary, yet which has received but little attention. A large part of this section of the book was printed in the JOURNAL during 1914-15. This edition contains few more pages, but the arrangement of the subject-matter has been changed. While very complete and valuable, the book is designed for teaching and reference rather than for nurses in private practice, owing to its size and weight. In places there seems to be unnecessary repetition.

TEACHER'S GUIDE FOR MATERIA MEDICA FOR NURSES. By A. S. Blumgarten, M.D. The Macmillan Company, New York. Price, 20 cents.

As the name implies this pamphlet is to be used in connection with the author's textbook for the instruction of students. The subject is